

Heavier Trucks on the Interstate One-year pilot program scheduled to expire

Last year, President Barack Obama signed into law a bill that authorized a one-year pilot program to allow heavier trucks (up to 99,000 pounds) to travel on Vermont's interstate system. Prior to the pilot program, the maximum truck weight allowed on Vermont's interstate system without a special permit was 80,000 pounds. Effective December 16, 2010, the pilot program is scheduled to expire. If the pilot program is not extended, the law will revert to its previous status and no truck weighing more than 80,000 pounds will be allowed on Vermont's interstate system unless it has been issued a special permit.

The 80,000 pound limit involves Vermont's interstate system only. Heavier trucks weighing up to 99,000 pounds were allowed to travel on Vermont state highways both before and during the interstate's one-year pilot timeframe. Should the interstate pilot expire, these heavier trucks will continue to be allowed on all Vermont state highways unless the highway is specifically posted for a lower weight limit.

There is still a possibility that within the next few weeks an extension of the interstate pilot program may be granted by Congress. The public can check the status of the program on the Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles website at www.dmv.vermont.gov, or by calling DMV's Commercial Vehicle Operations at 802-828-2064 or 802-828-2070.